

Alaska U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2011 Student Employment Program

Intern Request Form

Please Complete all information listed in *BLUE*

Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office

FWS Office

43655 Kalifornsky Beach Road	Soldotna	AK	99669
Address	City	State	Zip

Douglas Palmer	(907)-262-9863	Douglas_Palmer@fws.gov
FWS Project Leader	Phone	Email

Ken Harper	Fishery Biologist,	(907)-260-0122	Ken_Harper@fws.gov
Intern Supervisor (if different)	Title	Phone	Email

May 21, 2012	Kenai, Alaska and western Alaska
Start Date for internship	Location of Internship

Housing/Travel

Not when in Kenai for training or at the remote camp.

Does the internship location require the intern to have his own vehicle to get to work?

Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc (CARTS) operates on pre-purchased punchcards, and passengers must schedule their rides the day before.

What kind of public transportation is available in the area?

YES

Will you or another FWS staff be able to pick up the intern at the airport if needed?

ENA-Kenai

Nearest airport to the internship location

Yes

Will your office be able to provide housing for your intern?

Housing Description:

Co-ed, share sleeping spaces, shared kitchen, while training in Kenai, or in the bunkhouse at the Yukon Delta NWR in Bethel or in a wall tent while in remote field-camp located on a tributary to the Kuskokwim River in western Alaska.

Required Training

Check all the apply to this position

★	IT Security Training, QuickTime, General USFWS Overview
X	Bear Safety
X	Firearms
X	Boat Safety and Operation
	Aircraft Safety(required for travel in government float planes
X	CPR and wilderness first aid
	ATV Training
X	Site/Job Specific (please describe): Fish sampling methods, fish id, maintenance, data entry.

Intern Position Description

Fisheries Technician,

GS-02, 03, 04, 05

Position Title

GS or WG and what level?

DUTIES

Please note the duties the intern will be performing

As a Fisheries **Biological Science Technician** you will:

- Be responsible for working an assigned shift between 8am and midnight to identify and count salmon passing through a fish weir. You will be sitting outside on a fish trap during this shift. Other hours or shifts may be necessary depending upon circumstances.
- Capture and handle fish using appropriate techniques for study.
- Collect biological data from fish species including lengths weights, and scale samples for aging.
- Operate and maintain a variety of scientific field sampling equipment.
- Work and travel safely and effectively in difficult environmental conditions and in bear country.
- Use and maintain a dry suit. Daily snorkeling required maintaining the fish weir.
- Assist with camp chores including cooking, dishwashing, boat and camp maintenance, trash and other assigned duties.
- A self-starter that looks for things to do is the person we want to return a second and third year.

EDUCATION LEVEL, SKILL, INTERESTS

Please note specific skills, competencies, interests, classes selected, or other qualifications that would be useful for an intern to have in order to make a significant contribution on this project.

This position is located in remote western Alaska and requires **greater maturity** and **emotional resources** than positions that are solely office based. The intern should be capable of entertaining self with reading materials or other hobbies during off hours. Fieldwork is difficult with biting bugs and **strenuous working conditions** in and around flowing waters up to 5 feet in depth in this remote environment with a crew of two to three other persons. Days are long and sometimes wet with blowing rain. It is also essential that the intern be **enthusiastic** and willing to **learn new skills** both scientific and outdoor oriented. The intern should also have exacting attention to detail for required data collection and management. The intern should have an interest in fisheries. Relevant course work, work experience, or hobbies include fishing, boating, and fisheries classes, such as ichthyology or biology. Intern must be willing and able to work in bear country and use a firearm to protect themselves and others if necessary. Other skills including use of data processing including word, spreadsheets, and database programs are a plus.

WORK CONDITIONS, CLOTHING GEAR

The work is 7 days a week. The intern will be expected to work 40 hours per week, with overtime paid for work performed during weekends. The field camp is remote and communications are limited. Interns will receive training in Kenai or Bethel Alaska prior to deployment to the field camp where they will remain from mid June until the intern leaves at the end of the field season or when they have to return to school. Basic food is provided for the crews while in camp. Communications through a satellite phone are available but limited due to costs. Intern should be comfortable working in and around flowing waters and be capable of swimming and snorkeling. The physical ability to lift and carry heavy loads is required. The physical ability to lift up to 75 lbs is required as the crews move 20 foot weir panels, net totes, sand bags, wall tents, fuel and other pieces of equipment. The intern should bring field clothes that they are comfortable getting dirty. It is also recommended that the intern bring clothes, such that he/she can dress in layers. The temperature in Alaska from May to August ranges from 35 – 70 degrees (F) and weather can change dramatically within a day, from sunny to drizzling rain with extended overcast days. No email or cell phone access is available. Thus, the ability to add and remove clothes based on weather conditions is important. Some outdoor gear can be purchased in Kenai.

Cotton clothing is not recommended for fieldwork, but is fine for Kenai-based duties. Cotton gets wet and if it is next to the skin can rapidly remove warmth from the body. Synthetic fibers such as polypropylene, capilene, polar fleece, etc. are preferred. Wool is a good natural fiber as it keeps it's "warmth" even when wet. Crewmembers however do wear denim pants because of wear characteristics, and can generally change at the camp if they become wet.

Also, the intern should bring, gloves, a warm hat, a baseball cap, sunglasses, spare pair of prescription glasses if available, hiking boots, comfortable loose clothing since the job entails being outside and strenuous work in and around flowing water. In their hip pocket, they should carry at all times a can-do-attitude. Items interns should bring include a headlamp, flashlight, or small battery operated reading light, and a calling card or cell phone when in Kenai or Bethel the major town in western Alaska. Intern should bring any prescription medications and purchase locally sufficient personal toiletries prior to departing for the field.

FWS to Provide: Rain gear (jacket and pants) hip and chest waders, dry suit, mosquito jackets and headnets, any equipment needed in the field such as personal floatation gear, backpacks, field vest, sleeping bags, cook stoves, binoculars etc.